

# Celebrate the Children

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



### SENSORY DIET IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS BY: RON BURD

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Great Outdoors
- Around Campus
- Upcoming Events

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It amazes me how interconnected everything is in this world. It is more amazing how you can find some extremely reinforcing information in the oddest of locations. I would have never thought that a book on tracking animals would give me the same lessons that one would get from a clinical book on experience based learning and our sensory systems.



I found a book on tracking by a fellow named Tom Brown Jr. Though I wasn't particularly interested in hunting, I was intrigued by a particular concept. The book stated that in order to know your surroundings, you must completely immerse yourself into those surroundings first. For this to happen, one must be more in tune to their senses and how to use them appropriately to fully experience the world extensively. These words advise parallels notions of coaxing students to pull out of their self absorbed world and to dare to experience the world around them. Everything in this chapter was about first hand experiences being the best learning tool learn from the world. He talks of going out into the wild and allowing your experiences be your teacher and that knowing something by experiencing it personally trumps any information that you can find in a book or lecture. The chapter encourages the learner to sit in swamps to know the cold wet mud, and to let the mosquito bite you, because it is just as much a part of the experience as any. To walk barefoot and with minimal clothing so there is as little as possible between you and your surroundings. And best of all to just sit, relax, and observe... you would be amazed at what happens in the forest when people stop moving and making noise.

So here I am, walking through the woods as slowly and as quietly as possible, seeing with only my peripherals, trying my darnedest to "see" with my feet, and the suggestion ringing in my head stating to see, hear, smell, and feel everything I could possibly muster. I felt I had a good idea what the outdoors was like by hiking and camping and bounding about. It wasn't until it was suggested that experiencing the outdoors, above all else, is a sensory experience. It was at this point that I realized I had a whole lot of learning ahead of me. *-Ron Burd, Teacher, Celebrate the Children*

## A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM JACKIE'S CLASS

So far this year, the students in Jackie's class have been so busy! In Language Arts, we just finished reading a story about living in a city. For a final project, we built our very own city out of boxes and have had lots of fun using it for Floortime. We also read a story about saving and spending money. We made papier-mâché piggy banks and have been saving lots of change so we can take a field trip to Toys R Us. Additionally, we will be hosting a bake sale to demonstrate how to earn money.

The students have been enjoying Community Based Instruction. One Friday, we had a great time at Gardner's Field then walked to Burger King for lunch. This past Friday, we had a wonderful time picking apples at Sun High Orchards in Randolph. Look for more great things going on in Jackie's class in the upcoming weeks.



## A PEEK INTO THE CLASSROOM RUTH ANN'S CLASS

What an adventure of fun we have had in our classroom this week! We have been learning up a storm... Language Arts, Math, Social Skills, OH MY!



The highlight was definitely learning about CTC's own firefighter, Melissa. For CBI on Wednesday, 10/8, Melissa shared a day in the life of a firefighter with us. We not only learned about what it takes to be a firefighter, but we were given the opportunity to try on the gear. Thanks, Melissa for sharing your experience with us!

## A PEEK INTO THE ART PROGRAM

Welcome to the Art Room! The middle and high school students continue to work hard creating their original super heroes! Students are having a great time creating life-size figures of the super hero they developed. After placing paper on the floor, the students traced each other in action poses then transferred their costume designs and all of the super accessories including a mask, utility belt, logo, etc. Keep an eye out for these heroes! They will be making an appearance around the building soon!

The primary students are completing their first painting assignment, "Seagulls in the Surf". An impressionist painting by contemporary American Artist, Elizabeth Blaylock, inspired students as they used collage and dry brush painting techniques to capture a moment in time: a sunset at the edge of the ocean with seagulls in silhouette.



## TRUNK-OR-TREAT

On Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am Celebrate the Children will host our annual Trunk-or-Treat Halloween extravaganza! The day will consist of a Halloween Parade and Trunk-or-Treating! Trunk-or-Treat provides our students with a fun and safe way to participate in the trick-or-treating experience. We are currently seeking parents and staff who would be willing to participate in our Trunk-or-Treating.

Participants are asked to decorate their cars and hand out a special treat! The event begins at 10:00 but we are asking parents who are participating in trunk-or-treat to be ready and set-up by 9:45 in the side parking lot. Please send your child in with their costume clearly labeled with their name on it on the day of the event. Any questions, please contact Katie McColligan at 973-989-4033 ext. 150 or [kmccolligan@celebratethechildren.org](mailto:kmccolligan@celebratethechildren.org).

All family and friends are welcome to attend this wonderful event!  
We hope to see you there!!!!





## BOWL-A-THON SUPER HERO STYLE

Celebrate the Children will host their 5th Annual Bowl-a-Thon on Sunday, November 23 from 12-2 pm at Circle Lanes in Ledgewood, NJ. The event will include bowling, a costume contest, music by 105.5 WDHA and more! The event over the past four years raised enough money to buy a NEW CTC SCHOOL BUS and offer 12 After School Program scholarships to our students! This new bus will enable our students to take advantage of an array of new opportunities within the community as well as transport them to their numerous job sites! This year we are hoping to raise enough money to finish our stage and round out our Performing Arts program at CTC! Don't delay, pre-register TODAY!

TOP PRIZES!  
Mac Book AIR  
iPAD AIR



Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>  
12:00pm  
Circle Lanes  
Ledgewood, NJ



## 2014-2015 SPEAKER SERIES

If your child is not yet enrolled in PerformCare

OR

If you're interested in what services this state agency may be able to provide your child and family

OR

If you have questions about services you are already receiving

THEN

this event is for you!

Join us for an informational evening with Perform Care as they speak about Eligibility and Enrollment Process.

October 23, 2014

7:00PM

PerformCare is the single point of access to coordinate care for youth receiving services funded by the NJ Division of Children's System of Care.

Please RSVP to: [rsvp.speakerseries@yahoo.com](mailto:rsvp.speakerseries@yahoo.com)

Light refreshments will be served.

*"Good schools, like good societies and good families, celebrate and cherish diversity."  
-Deborah Meier*

## WHY ARE WE USING SOCIAL MEDIA AND WHY SHOULD YOU FOLLOW US?

Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the United States and now affects 1 in 50 children. More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than AIDS, Diabetes and Cancer combined.

We are at an important time in the field of special needs intervention as many people are beginning to recognize the need for approaches that look at the overall development of a child and target areas such as abstract thinking, problem solving, independence, self-esteem, emotions, language, and social interactions in a natural and supportive setting. At this time, the demand for this type of intervention is much greater than what clinicians and educators are able to supply. Therefore, it is crucial that we share the amazing programs we have to offer and the "how to" with others.

To fulfill our mission, we need your help and ask you to participate with us in the development of work, in the sharing and building of materials, and in the structure and growth of our organizations: Celebrate the Children and Profectum. Like us on Facebook, Pinterest and Twitter and spread awareness of progressive programs that support families and help individuals reach their highest potential and find success in society.

Please share our pages and posts with your family and friends! ☺

## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

The PTO is currently collecting Box Tops for Education for CTC! Did you know, each Box Top is worth \$0.10? Sometimes more? And you can find them on 100's of products, many items you already have in your pantry! All you have to do is simply cut the Box Top off your product, place it in a bag or envelope with your child's classroom teacher name and send it to school. Viola! It's as simple as that! Now through October 31<sup>st</sup>, the PTO is awarding the class who collects the most Box Tops a PAJAMA PARTY BREAKFAST!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

October 23<sup>rd</sup>  
CTC Speaker Series  
Eligibility  
Enrollment Process  
Services  
Gymnasium  
7:00-9:00pm

October 24<sup>th</sup>  
Future Fair  
Gymnasium  
10:00am

October 29<sup>th</sup>  
Planning for Adult Life  
Parent Workshop Series  
CTC, Denville  
10:30am-12:00pm

October 31<sup>st</sup>  
Trunk-or-Treat  
10:00am

November 16<sup>th</sup>  
Profectum Conference  
John Jay College, NYC

November 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Bowl-A-Thon  
Circle Lanes  
Ledgewood, NJ

March 27<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Benefit  
SAVE THE DATE!



# Celebrate the Children

A School for Children with Alternative Learning Styles

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[www.celebratethechildren.org](http://www.celebratethechildren.org)

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